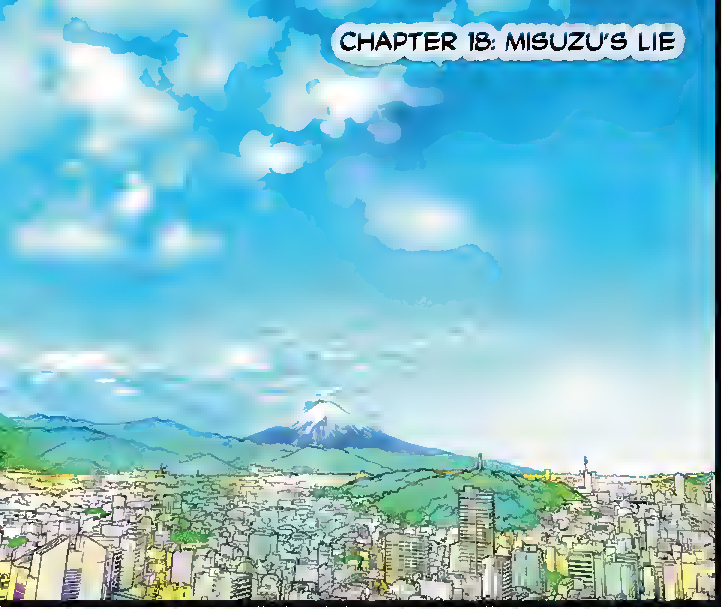
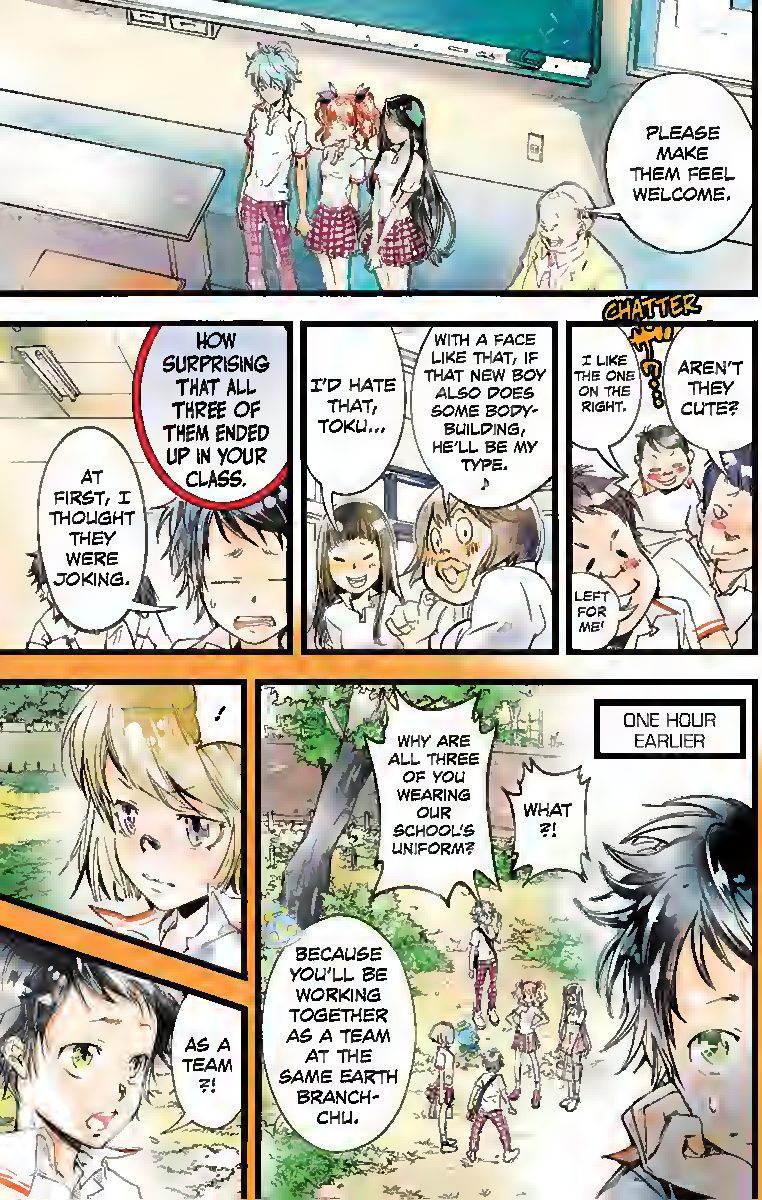

CHAPTER 18: MISUZU'S LIE

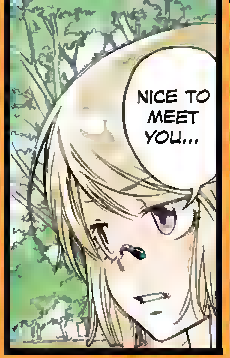
BLAH
GAB
BLAH
GAB
BLAH
QUIET!

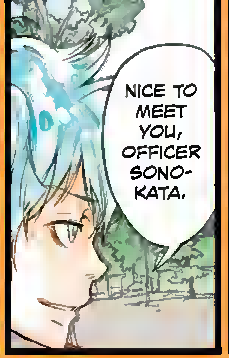
MIK
ELDLIVE

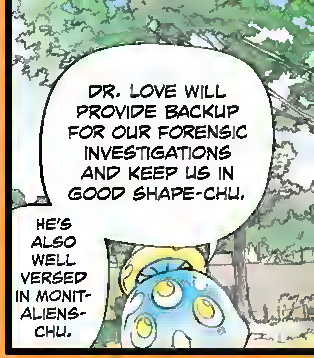
CHAPTER 18: MISUZU'S LIE

...THREE NEW TRANSFER STUDENTS WILL BE JOINING OUR CLASS.
NinoTchKa
Veronica
Ainosuke Takaramakan
OKAY, EVERYONE. THIS IS A BIT UNUSUAL, BUT...

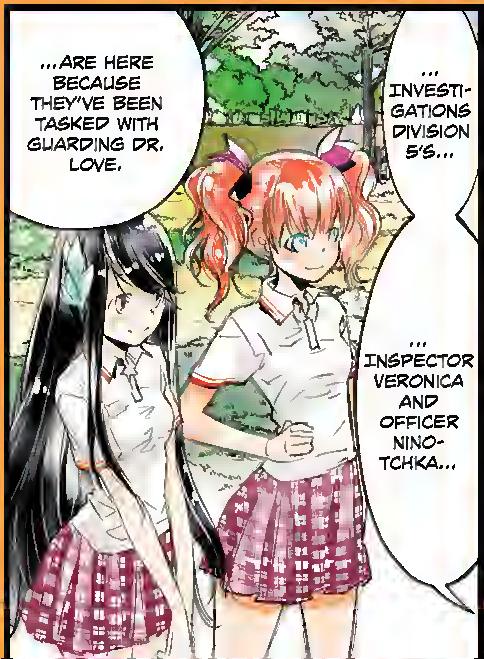

PLEASE MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOME.
CHATTER
AREN'T THEY CUTE?
I LIKE THE ONE ON THE RIGHT.
LEFT FOR ME!
WITH A FACE LIKE THAT, IF THAT NEW BOY ALSO DOES SOME BODY-BUILDING, HE'LL BE MY TYPE. ♪
I'D HATE THAT, TOKU...
HOW SURPRISING THAT ALL THREE OF THEM ENDED UP IN YOUR CLASS.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THEY WERE JOKING.
ONE HOUR EARLIER
WHY ARE ALL THREE OF YOU WEARING OUR SCHOOL'S UNIFORM?
WHAT ?!
BECAUSE YOU'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER AS A TEAM AT THE SAME EARTH BRANCH-CHU.
AS A TEAM ?!
!

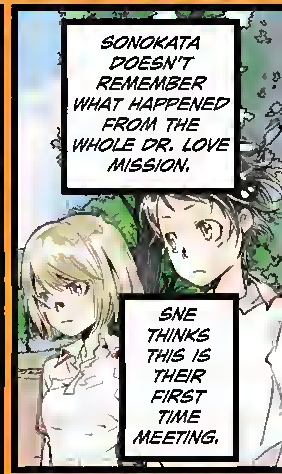

NICE TO MEET YOU...

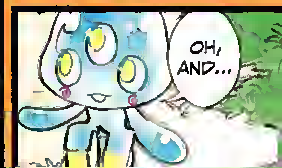

NICE TO MEET YOU, OFFICER SONO-KATA.

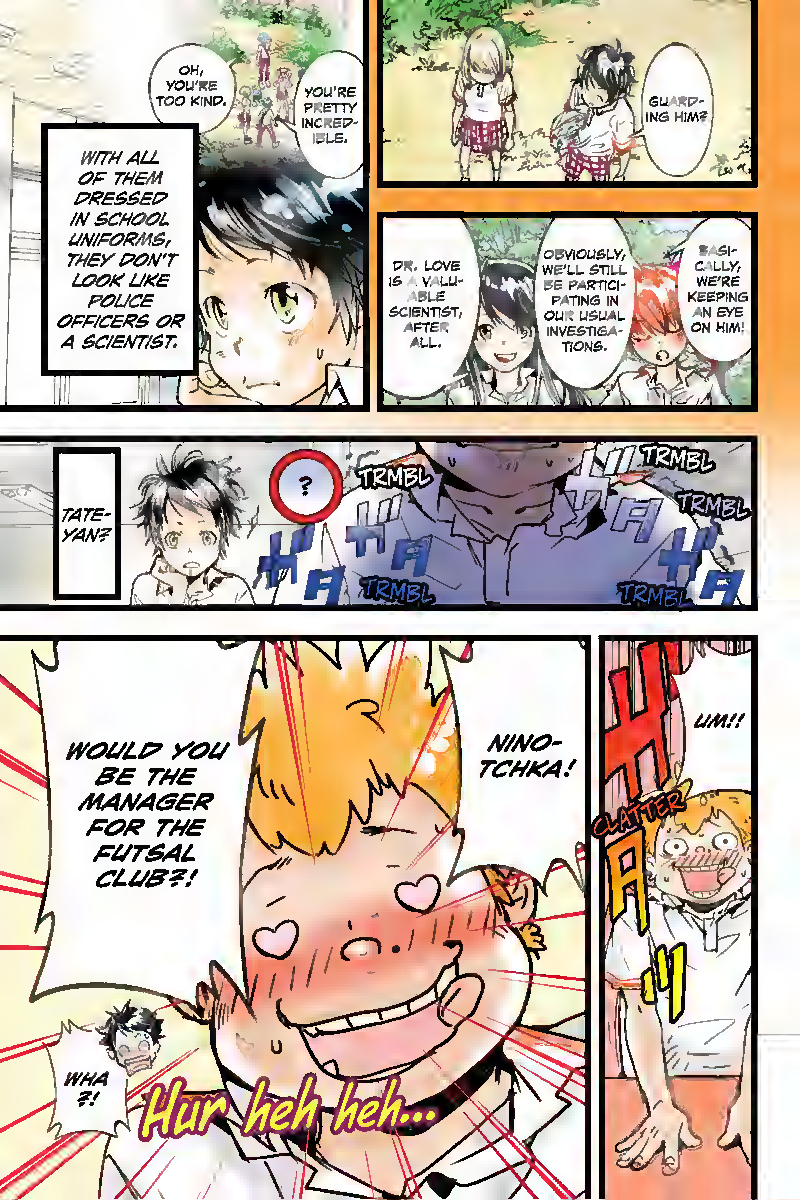

DR. LOVE WILL PROVIDE BACKUP FOR OUR FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS AND KEEP US IN GOOD SHAPE-CHU.
HE'S ALSO WELL VERSED IN MONIT-ALIENS-CHU.

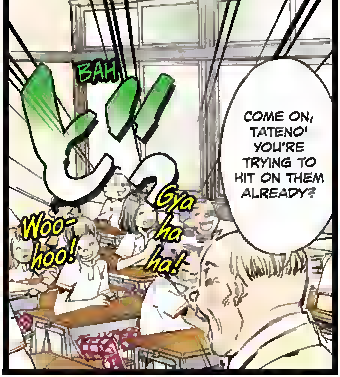
I SEE.
UH... OH, RIGHT...

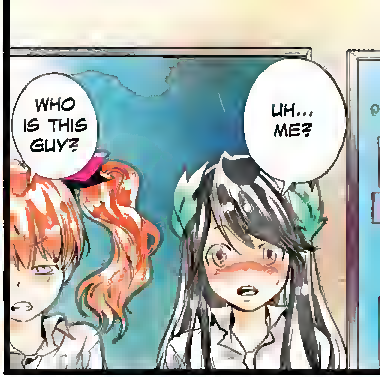

...ARE HERE BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN TASKED WITH GUARDING DR. LOVE.
... INVESTI-GATIONS DIVISION 5'S...
... INSPECTOR VERONICA AND OFFICER NINO-TCHKA...


SONOKATA DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED FROM THE WHOLE DR. LOVE MISSION.
SNE THINKS THIS IS THEIR FIRST TIME MEETING.

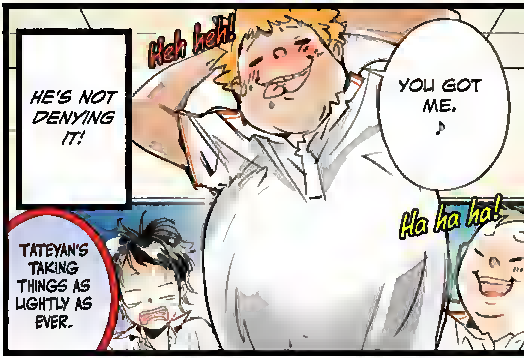

OH, AND...

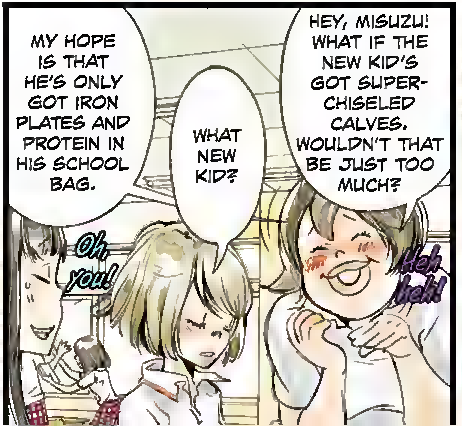

WITH ALL OF THEM DRESSED IN SCHOOL UNIFORMS, THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE POLICE OFFICERS OR A SCIENTIST.
OH, YOU'RE TOO KIND.
YOU'RE PRETTY INCREDIBLE.
GUARDING HIM?
BASICALLY, WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM!
OBVIOUSLY, WE'LL STILL BE PARTICIPATING IN OUR USUAL INVESTIGATIONS.
DR. LOVE IS A VALUABLE SCIENTIST, AFTER ALL.
TATE-YAN?
?
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
WOULD YOU BE THE MANAGER FOR THE FUTSAL CLUB?!
NINO-TCHKA!
WHA?!
Hur heh heh...
UM!!
CLATTER


BAH!
Woo-hoo!
Gya ha ha!
COME ON, TATENO! YOU'RE TRYING TO HIT ON THEM ALREADY?

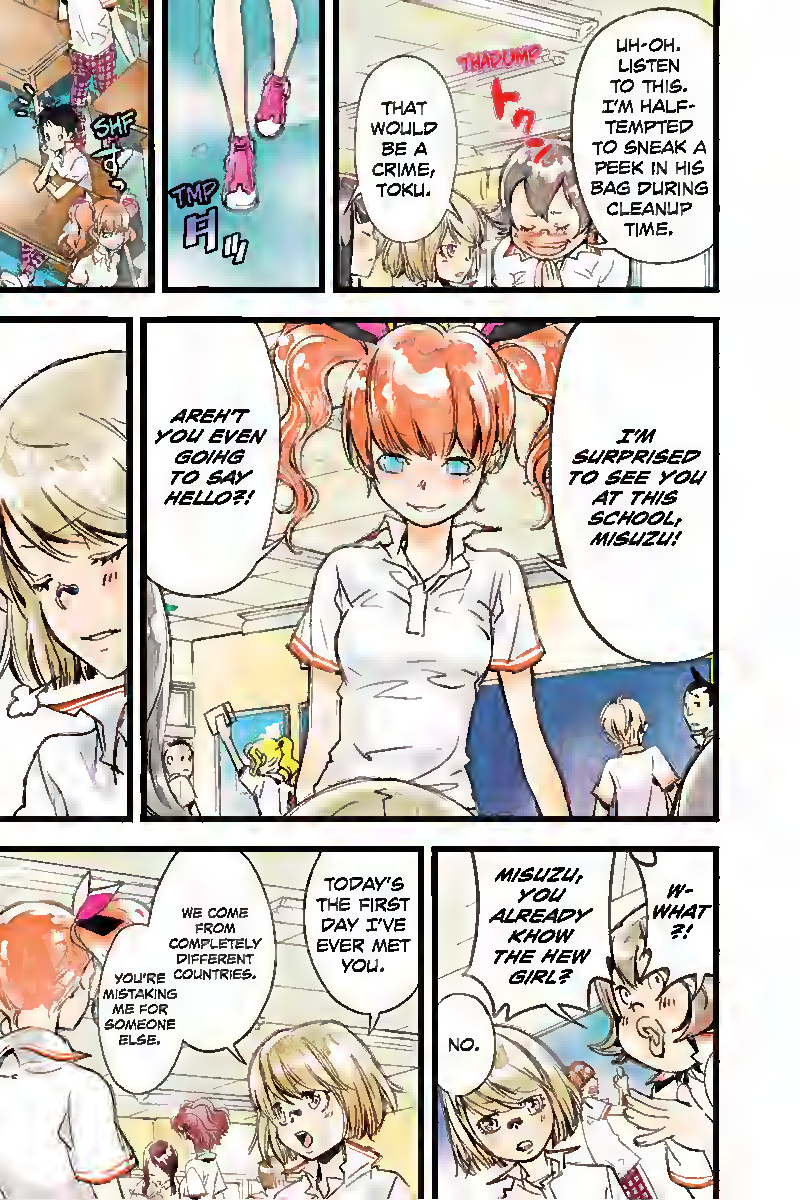

WHO IS THIS GUY?
UH... ME?

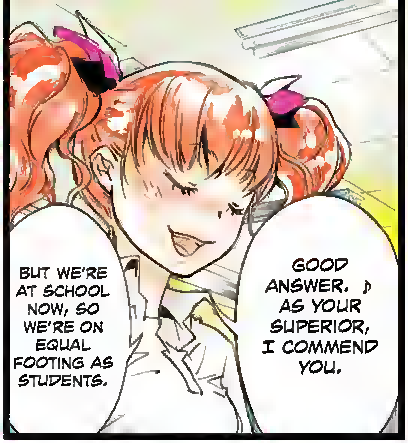
GLANCE


HE'S NOT DENYING IT!
TATEYAN'S TAKING THINGS AS LIGHTLY AS EVER.
Heh heh!
YOU GOT ME. ♪
Ha ha ha!

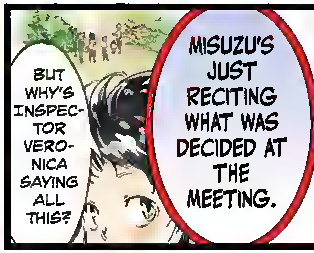

MY HOPE IS THAT HE'S ONLY GOT IRON PLATES AND PROTEIN IN HIS SCHOOL BAG.
WHAT NEW KID?
Oh, you!
HEY, MISUZU! WHAT IF THE NEW KID'S GOT SUPER-CHISELED CALVES. WOULDN'T THAT BE JUST TOO MUCH?
Heh heh!

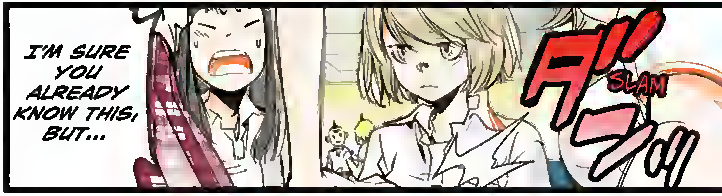
DITING
コーン
キーン
DOOOZO


SHF
TMP
THADUMP
UH-OH. LISTEN TO THIS. I'M HALF-TEMPTED TO SNEAK A PEEK IN HIS BAG DURING CLEANUP TIME.
THAT WOULD BE A CRIME, TOKU.
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU AT THIS SCHOOL, MISUZU!
AREN'T YOU EVEN GOING TO SAY HELLO?!
W-WHAT?!
MISUZU, YOU ALREADY KNOW THE NEW GIRL?
NO.
TODAY'S THE FIRST DAY I'VE EVER MET YOU.
WE COME FROM COMPLETELY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.
YOU'RE MISTAKING ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

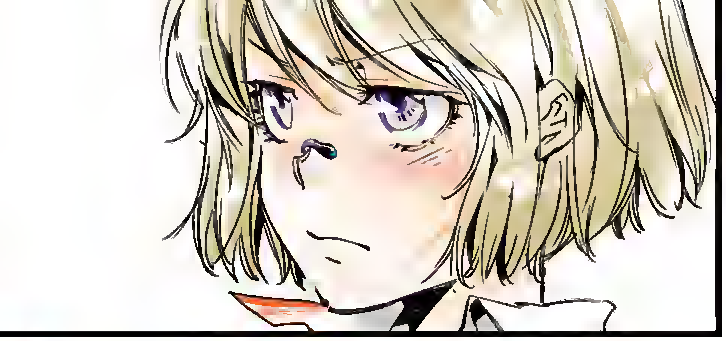

GOOD ANSWER. ♪ AS YOUR SUPERIOR, I COMMEND YOU.
BUT WE'RE AT SCHOOL NOW, SO WE'RE ON EQUAL FOOTING AS STUDENTS.

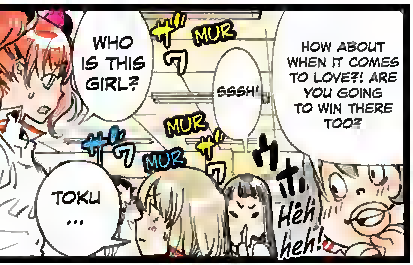
OH.
AH.

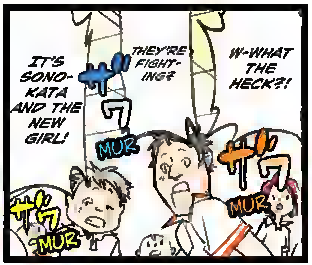

MISUZU'S JUST RECITING WHAT WAS DECIDED AT THE MEETING.
BUT WHY'S INSPECTOR VERONICA SAYING ALL THIS?

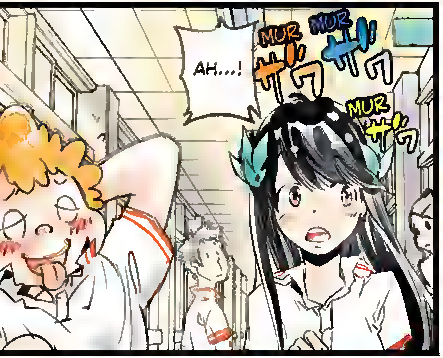

I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS, BUT...
SLAM
ガン!!

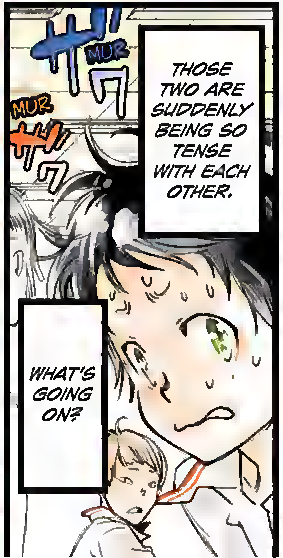
...WHEN IT COMES TO STUDIES AND ATHLETICS ...
...I WON'T LOSE TO YOU, MISUZU!



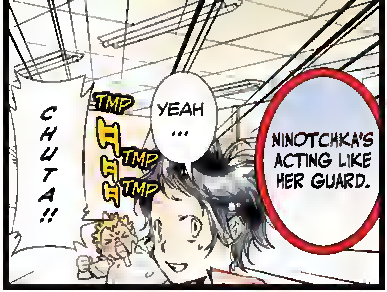

WHO IS THIS GIRL?
MUR
SSSH!
HOW ABOUT WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE?! ARE YOU GOING TO WIN THERE TOO?
TOKU ...
Heh heh!

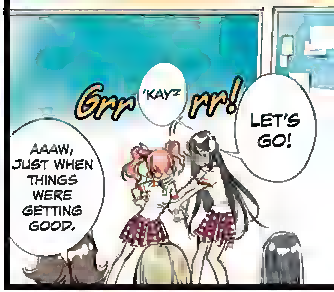

IT'S SONO-KATA AND THE NEW GIRL!
THEY'RE FIGHT-ING?
W-WHAT THE HECK?!
MUR

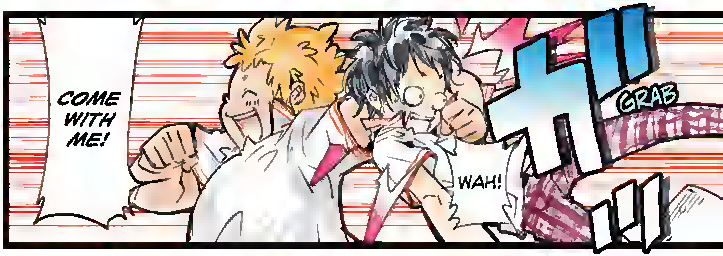

AH...!
MUR

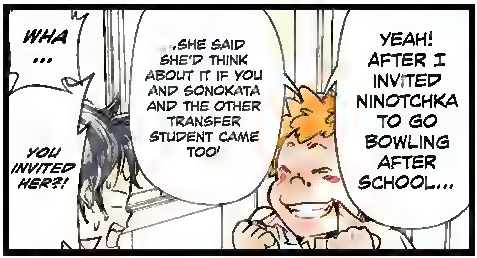

THOSE TWO ARE SUDDENLY BEING SO TENSE WITH EACH OTHER.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
MUR

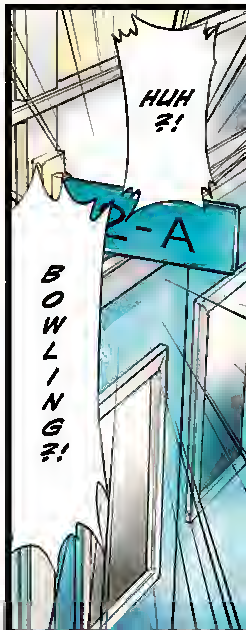
THAT'S ENOUGH!
VERO-NICA!

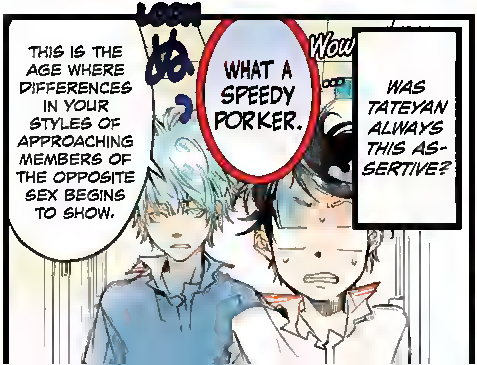

CHUTA!!
IMP
IMP
IMP
YEAH...
NINOTCHKA'S ACTING LIKE HER GUARD.


Grr
'KAY?
rr!
LET'S GO!
AAAW, JUST WHEN THINGS WERE GETTING GOOD.


COME WITH ME!
GRAB
WAH!

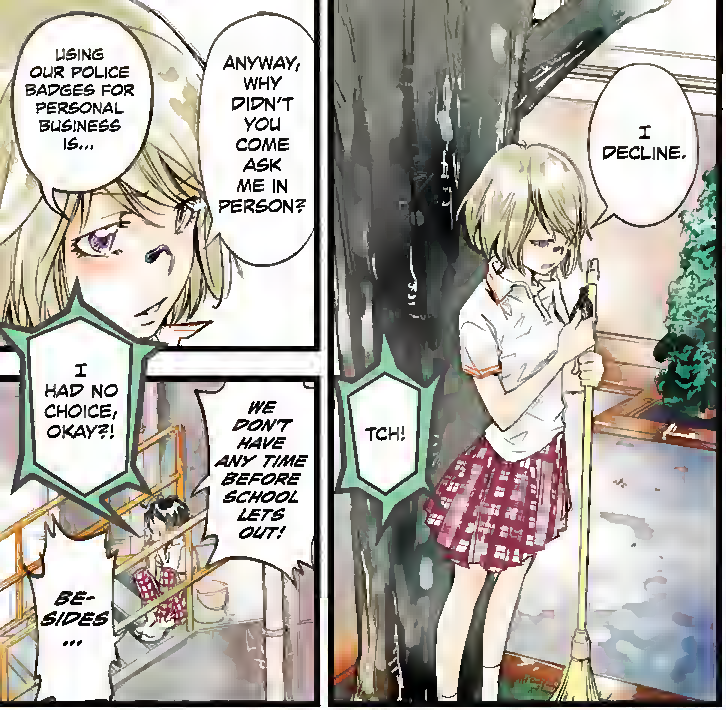

WHA...
YOU INVITED HER?!
...SHE SAID SHE'D THINK ABOUT IT IF YOU AND SONOKATA AND THE OTHER TRANSFER STUDENT CAME TOO!
YEAH! AFTER I INVITED NINOTCHKA TO GO BOWLING AFTER SCHOOL...

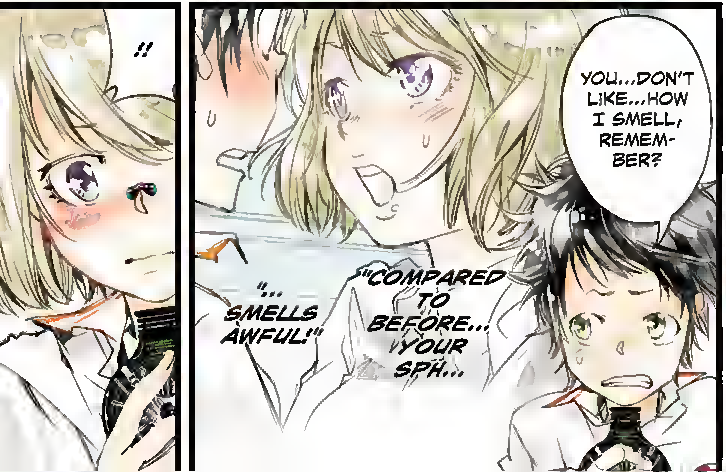

HUH?!
BOWLING?!

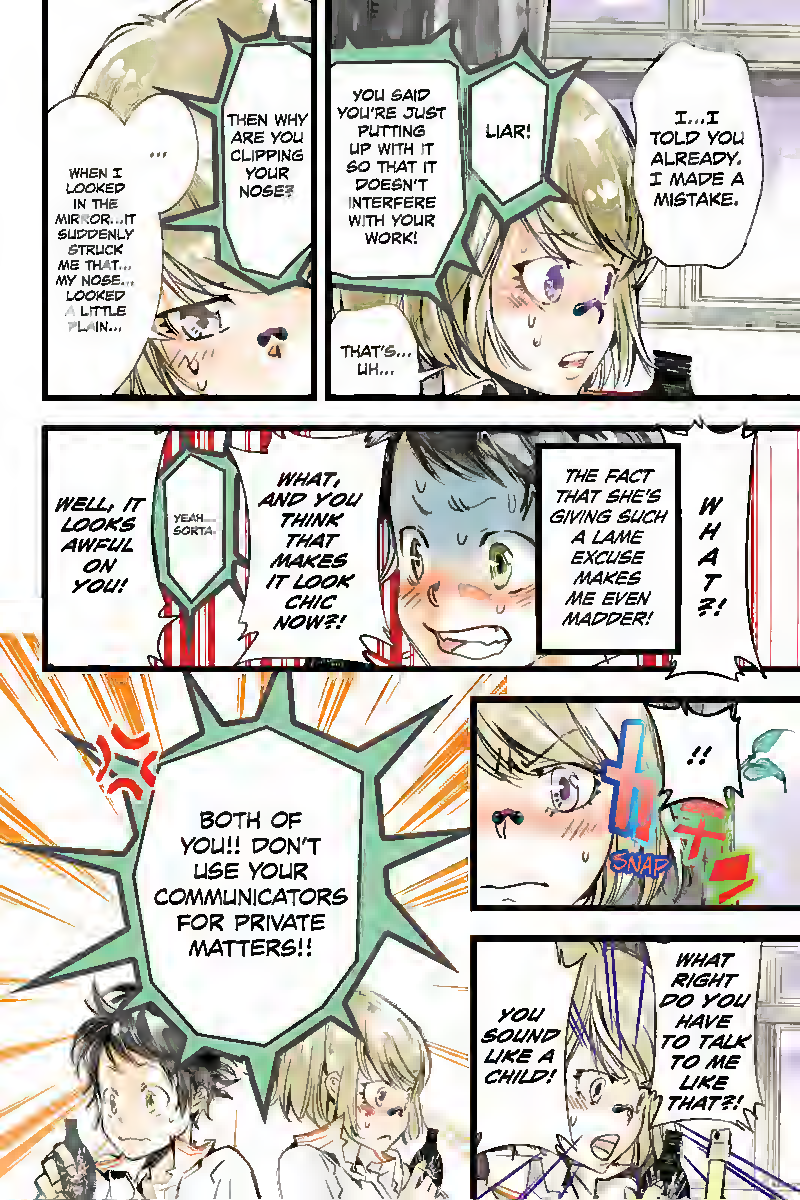

LOOK
WOW
THIS IS THE AGE WHERE DIFFERENCES IN YOUR STYLES OF APPROACHING MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX BEGINS TO SHOW.
WHAT A SPEEDY PORKER.
WAS TATEYAN ALWAYS THIS ASSERTIVE?

BUT HIS TYPE, THAT ARE PREFERRED BY A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX, WILL LEAVE MANY OFFSPRING.
I'VE BEEN ALIVE 500 YEARS BUT NEVER REALLY MADE PROGRESS, SO I OFTEN FIND MY LIFE IN DANGER.
WHEN DID DR. LOVE GET HERE?!
MY REAL NAME IS TAKLA-MAKAN STRANGE LOVE.
MY NAME IS AINOSUKE TAKU... UH...I FORGET.
YOU'RE ALSO A LITTLE DIFFERENT. I LIKE YOU! THE NAME'S TATEYAN. ♪
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF EVEN MAKING UP AN ALIAS THEN?!
GRAB
I... I ONLY SPOKE TO HIM A LITTLE EARLIER!
HM? CHUTA, YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH THE NEW KID?
I WANT YOU TO INVITE MISUZU SONOKATA FOR ME!
AND YOU, CHUTA! I HAVE THE REQUEST OF A LIFETIME FOR YOU!
HUH?
CLAP
SO YOU'RE COMING BOWLING WITH US TOO, RIGHT, TAKKUN?
THAT'S A DARN LONG NAME! I'LL CALL YOU TAKKUN FOR SHORT!
TAK-KUN?
SURE.

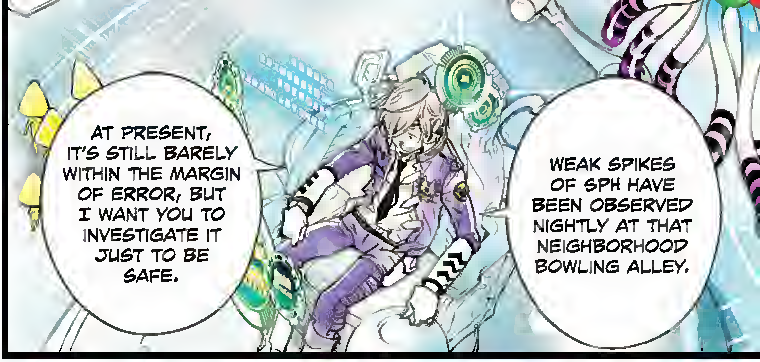
I'VE NEVER SPOKEN TO SONOKATA BEFORE!
AND YOU GUYS ARE CLOSE!
I...I DUNNO ABOUT CLOSE ...
IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN!
NO THANKS. I'LL PASS.
SEE? CALLED IT.
A-ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T RE-CONSIDER?
VERONICA, NINOTCHKA AND DR. LOVE ARE COMING TOO... AND IT'S JUST BOWLING.
I SEE NO REASON TO JOIN THOSE THREE.
COULD YOU AT LEAST TRY?

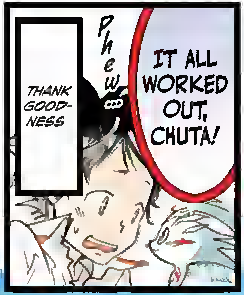

I DECLINE.
TCH!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME BEFORE SCHOOL LETS OUT!
BE-SIDES ...
I HAD NO CHOICE, OKAY?!
ANYWAY, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME ASK ME IN PERSON?
USING OUR POLICE BADGES FOR PERSONAL BUSINESS IS...

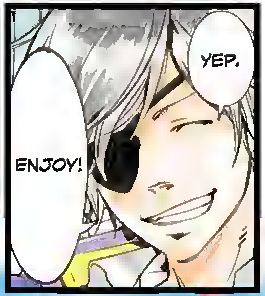

YOU...DON'T LIKE...HOW I SMELL, REMEM-BER?
"COMPARED TO BEFORE... YOUR SPH...
"... SMELLS AWFUL!"
!!

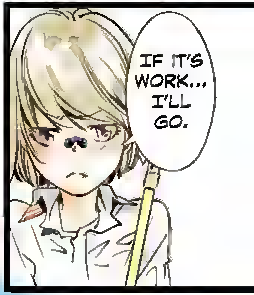

I...I TOLD YOU ALREADY. I MADE A MISTAKE.
LIAR!
YOU SAID YOU'RE JUST PUTTING UP WITH IT SO THAT IT DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR WORK!
THAT'S... UH...
THEN WHY ARE YOU CLIPPING YOUR NOSE?
...
WHEN I LOOKED IN THE MIRROR...IT SUDDENLY STRUCK ME THAT... MY NOSE... LOOKED A LITTLE PLAIN...
WHAT?!
THE FACT THAT SHE'S GIVING SUCH A LAME EXCUSE MAKES ME EVEN MADDER!
WHAT, AND YOU THINK THAT MAKES IT LOOK CHIC NOW?!
YEAH... SORTA.
WELL, IT LOOKS AWFUL ON YOU!
!!
SNAP
BOTH OF YOU!! DON'T USE YOUR COMMUNICATORS FOR PRIVATE MATTERS!!
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO TALK TO ME LIKE THAT?!
YOU SOUND LIKE A CHILD!

CHIEF LANE!!
YOUR POLICE BADGES AREN'T CELL PHONES!
SORRY, SIR...
SHEESH, YOU TWO... I HEARD ENOUGH TO THROW IN MY TWO CENTS AS YOUR SUPERIOR.
!!
!!
YOU SHOULD GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW TEAMMATES.
THAT'S AN ORDER.
MISUZU, GO BOWLING WITH THEM.
BUT ...
OH, AND ANOTHER THING.

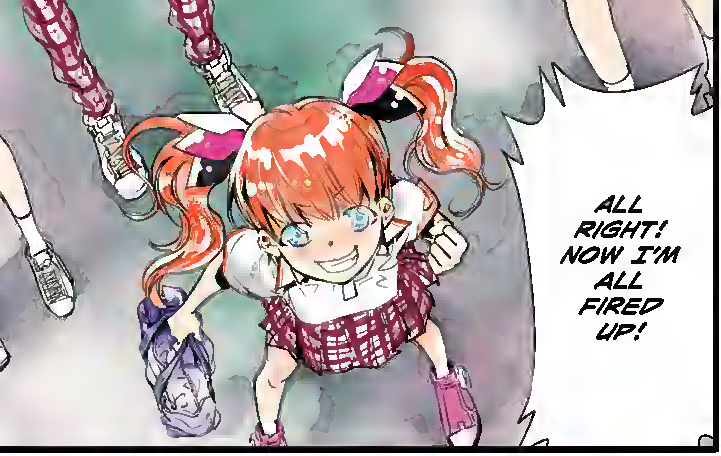

AT PRESENT, IT'S STILL BARELY WITHIN THE MARGIN OF ERROR, BUT I WANT YOU TO INVESTIGATE IT JUST TO BE SAFE.
WEAK SPIKES OF SPH HAVE BEEN OBSERVED NIGHTLY AT THAT NEIGHBORHOOD BOWLING ALLEY.

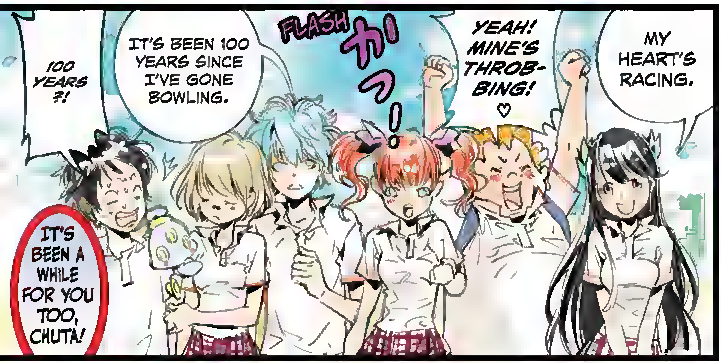

THANK GOOD-NESS
Phew...
IT ALL WORKED OUT, CHUTA!

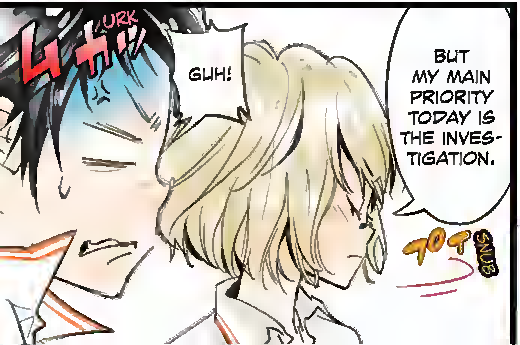

ENJOY!
YEP.

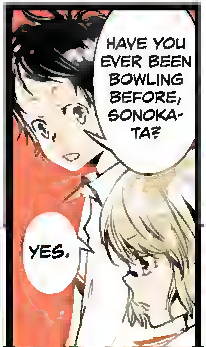

IF IT'S WORK... I'LL GO.

HIROBORI
ボウル


ALL RIGHT! NOW I'M ALL FIRED UP!


100 YEARS?!
IT'S BEEN 100 YEARS SINCE I'VE GONE BOWLING.
FLASH
カッ!
YEAH! MINE'S THROB-BING! ♡
MY HEART'S RACING.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE FOR YOU TOO, CHUTA!


GURK
GUH!
BUT MY MAIN PRIORITY TODAY IS THE INVES-TIGATION.
TOT
SNUB


HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BOWLING BEFORE, SONOKA-TA?
YES.